



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

Draft Summary of Planned Work

Environmental Health

2001-03

Board Sponsor:
Carl Osaki, R.S., M.S.P.H.

Lead Staff: Marianne Seifert, (360) 236-4101

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For more information contact Board staff at:

Telephone: (360) 236-4100

Fax: (360) 236-4088

Email: wsboh@doh.wa.gov

Web: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/>

Overview

The Environmental Health Committee will continue to review and revise rules and respond to citizen inquiries. It will also pursue additional work in two related areas during the 2001 – 2003 period.

First, the Committee will follow-up on the work of the Environmental Justice Committee.

Second, the Environmental Health Committee will respond to the Environmental Justice Committee's important finding that communities perceive the need for better agency coordination and more meaningful community involvement in processes addressing environmental health problems. In response to this finding, the Committee will begin by researching existing processes and models used by local, state and federal agencies to resolve environmental health problems with communities. The Committee will work with agency and community representatives to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing processes, identify duplicative efforts, and recommend how to improve agency collaboration and community engagement. The Committee will summarize this work in a final report.

Rule Revisions

The Environmental Health Committee will review several rules during this period. The reviews will require different levels of effort. The rules and their current status include:

246-215	Food Service	Update from DOH expected in December 2001.
246-217	Food Worker Permits	Status report to Board in September 2001.
246-360	Transient Accommodations	DOH review completed, revision expected in in 2002.
246-260	Water Recreation Facilities	Revision expected in 2002.
246-272	On-Site Sewage Systems	Report from DOH regarding their task force's recommendations for DOH program and plan to convene group for rule revision expected October 2001.
246-291	Group B Water Systems	Interim report to the Board expected January 2003. Possible Board action based on work of DOH and LHJs with new funds expected July 2003.

Environmental Justice Work

The Board approved recommendations made by the Environmental Justice Committee in June 2001 that 1) Department of Ecology (DOE) and Department of Health (DOH) conduct better agency coordination, 2) state and local agencies improve their capacity to address environmental justice issues, and 3) state and local agencies consider adopting the Board's environmental justice guidelines. The Environmental Health Committee plans to encourage state and local agencies to follow-up on these recommendations with the following actions:

Tasks	Timeline
Publish the Board's final report on environmental justice with revised guidelines	October 2001
Participate in National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC) meeting in Seattle	December 2001
Participate in the Environmental Justice Interagency Workgroup	Ongoing
Maintain Board Environmental Justice Web site	Ongoing
Participate in other statewide activities as appropriate	Ongoing

Community Assessments Survey and Report

Past Board work has found that impacted communities often feel disenfranchised from government processes and overburdened by the many different government agencies working in their neighborhoods. The Environmental Health Committee will respond to this by surveying community assessment processes currently being used by local, state and federal agencies in their work with communities to identify, prioritize, and resolve environmental and public health issues. The Committee will then make recommendations of how to improve agency coordination and better engage entire communities, to assist the board in policy making.

Objectives:

- Identify and understand models and processes used to guide these community assessment and other processes, such as *Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH)*.
- Identify key participants in community assessments and other processes used to resolve environmental and public health issues, including community leaders and organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies and their representatives.
- Understand interactions between different agencies and community groups during community assessments and other processes, including the roles of different agencies and relationships among agencies and community groups.
- Recommend how to improve agency coordination and community engagement.

Tasks	Timeline
Survey the Internet for community assessment programs, projects and models	December 2001
Send out e-mails and newsletter announcements requesting information from and about community engagement processes currently used to support local environmental and public health programs. Ask for any tools or models being used to guide their processes (e.g., PACE EH, EPA and NEJAC's Model Plan for Public Participation, DOE's checklist).	June 2002
Use existing contacts and contacts identified from Web sites and referrals to create list of stakeholders	Ongoing
Interview key community and agency members to hear their ideas, problems, needs, and recommendations for improving community assessment processes.	December 2002
Convene workgroup of key community and agency members to discuss community engagement processes and draft joint recommendations to improve the processes.	May 2003
Participate in community events and meetings involving multiple stakeholders and addressing environmental health issues to help identify additional stakeholders and community engagement processes	Ongoing
Draft final report summarizing the Committee's findings and making recommendations to encourage better interagency coordination and community engagement in the decision-making process addressing environmental health issues.	November 2003